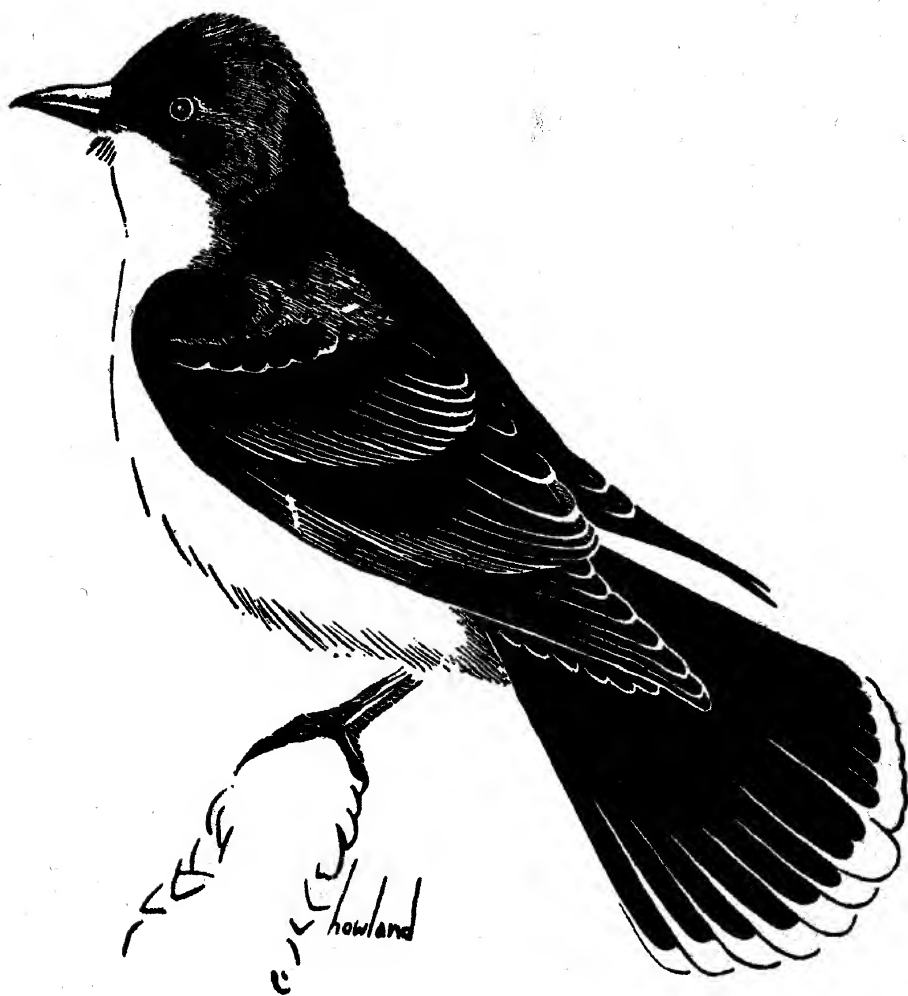


The **KINGBIRD**



VOLUME II, No. 4

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The **KINGBIRD**

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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Editor—ALLAN S. KLONICK

Associates—JOSEPH W. TAYLOR
EUGENE EISENMANN

Circulation Manager—MISS HELEN FOSTER

Cover Design—DOUGLAS L. HOWLAND

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MISS AUDREY L. WREDE
3109 BEVERLY RD.
BROOKLYN 26, N. Y.

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1952

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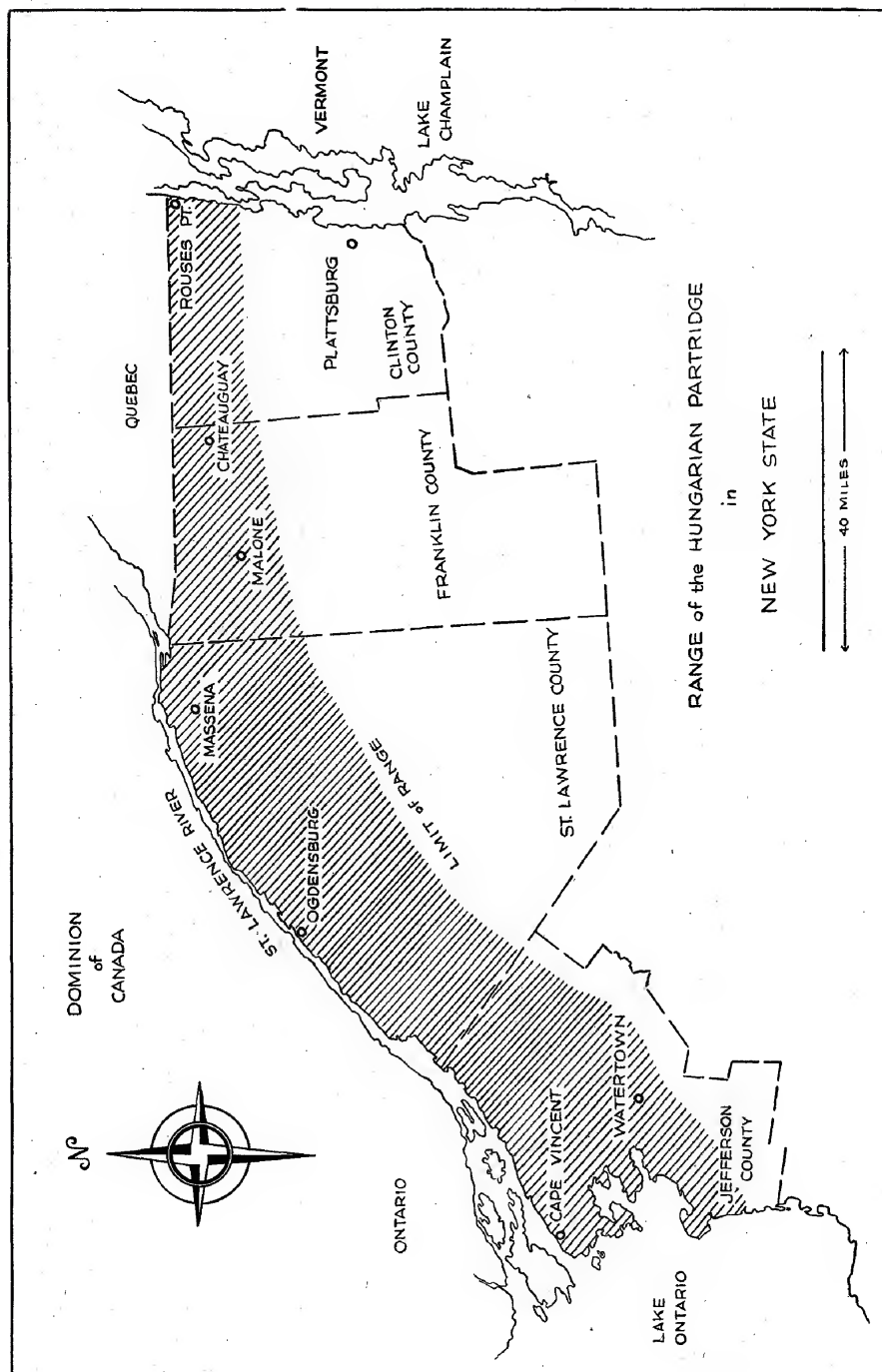
Allan S. Klonick, 828 Grosvenor Road
Rochester 18, N. Y.

THE HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE IN NEW YORK STATE

The European Grey Partridge, *Perdix perdix perdix*, usually called the Hungarian Partridge in this country, is a native of Central Europe. Successfully introduced to the British Isles several centuries ago, it was brought to North America as early as 1870 and large scale importations have been carried out since that date. Chapman, *Birds of Eastern North America*, states that nearly 50,000 were imported in the first decade of the 20th century. It has been liberated in Canada as well as in the United States. Eaton, *Birds of New York*, mentions releases in New York State in 1909.

Mass liberation of the Hungarian Partridge was carried out by the New York State Conservation Department between 1927 and 1932. During this period 27,750 birds were secured in Czechoslovakia and set free throughout the state. For the most part they did not maintain themselves, and the experiment was largely a failure. In one section of the state, however, the Hungarian Partridge has become well established and appears to be flourishing in suitable habitats. This is a belt of land extending across the northern border of the state from Lake Ontario to Lake Champlain. This lies mainly in the St. Lawrence River Valley, having elevations less than 600 feet above sea level for the most part. Distribution is uneven, birds tending to concentrate in favored localities. A survey of this area ten years ago indicated that there were about 14,500 Hungarians present. At that time the birds were most numerous in the vicinity of Ogdensburg and Malone. Recent observations indicate an increase in Jefferson County. There is considerable fluctuation from year to year, winter sleet storms having a deleterious effect on the population. John E. Wilson, Game Manager of the St. Lawrence-Ontario District, who has recently made contribution studies of this species, believes there are now between 8 and 10,000 in the area.

This species is non-migratory and its range in the state according to the



best available information is shown on the accompanying map. The areas south of Watertown and east of Chateaugay represent recent extensions. Hungarian Partridges have also been introduced in Canada immediately north of the area under consideration and appear to be doing well there.

Consideration has been given to the factors which have led to the success of the Hungarian Partridge in Northern New York in contrast to its failure to survive elsewhere in the state. Agricultural land with grain fields appears to be a primary requirement. Wilson has noted that the species is partial to clay flatlands which accounts for its spotty distribution. Light rainfall during the nesting season is believed to be a requirement. The birds are able to survive heavy snow and severe cold weather which are normal constituents of northern New York winters, but, as mentioned earlier, sleet storms which prevent access to normal food supply have an important effect on mortality.

In the fall of 1952, twenty years after the period of liberation, hunting of the Hungarian Partridge was permitted for a period of five days in Franklin, St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties. Conservation Department officials estimate that 300 birds were taken.

Most of the above data was obtained from the *New York State Conservation Department*, the writer being particularly indebted to the game manager of the St. Lawrence-Ontario District.

John Belknap
North Country Bird Club
Gouverneur, N. Y.

THE PINE-WOODS SPARROW IN NEW YORK STATE

In Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on April 21, 1948 I flushed from the ground a small bird which cocked up its tail in a wren-like manner. Its bill, however, showed it to be a sparrow. The crown and upperparts generally, except the tail, were a light reddish brown, suggestive of a Field Sparrow, but the bill was large than the latter's, and grayish horn in color. There was a light reddish brown line through the eye. The buffy breast and white belly were unstreaked. Some dark gray marks were scattered through its back. The bird soon flew into a thicket, where it was remarkably secretive. At this time I suddenly realized that it was a Pine-woods Sparrow, *Aimophila aestivalis subsp.* Shortly afterward there came from the thicket on two occasions a very sweet song similar to that of this species, which I had observed in Georgia and Florida. After stalking the bird I obtained two more observations. On April 22, Mr. Edward J. Whelan, now president of the *Brooklyn Bird Club*, saw the bird and confirmed the identification.

The same spring there was a spread of this species into new territory in Ohio, Michigan and Kansas (*Audubon Field Notes* v. 2, 1948, p. 167). A previous record in New York State was in Monroe County, May 8-12, 1940 (*Auk*, v. 58, 1941, p. 103-4). A previous record for the New York City region was at Fort Lee, N. J., May 9, 1918 (*Griscom, Birds of the New York City Region*, N. Y. 1923, p. 283).

Geoffrey Carleton
The Linnaean Society of N. Y.
New York 24, N. Y.

RED-TAILED HAWKS ATTENDING A GRASS FIRE

March 30, 1952, was a dry, warm day with numerous grass fires in the Syracuse vicinity. A twenty-acre fire in an old pasture-cornfield two miles east of Fayetteville was attended by four Red-tails and one Kestrel. The Red-tails alighted in low trees along fence rows close to the fire, and flew from one perch to another through fairly dense smoke. During half an hour of intermittent watching, no bird was seen to catch anything, but it was assumed that they were attracted by the possibility of picking up small animals fleeing the fire. The nest of one Red-tail pair was $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of the fire, and was later broken up by a racoon. The nest of the second pair was found on April 20 in a maple woods $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the fire area. One fully feathered young was perched upon this nest on May 30. A third pair of Red-tails nest $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north in Green Lakes State Park, but they did not appear at the fire. The Kestrel's nest was found about May 1 in an old flicker hole $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the fire area.

Walter R. Spofford
Fayetteville, N. Y.

NESTING OF THE GOSHAWK NEAR BIG MOOSE, NEW YORK

During the spring months of 1951, Mr. Paul Paquette and Mr. Kittendaugh, of Kenwood, Oneida, New York, were attacked by Goshawks as they walked along a trail near Big Moose Lake, one of the birds actually striking Mr. Kittendaugh on the head. In late April 1952, he was attacked again less than half a mile from the previous site, and this time one of the birds chased Mr. Kittendaugh's dog for several hundred yards. On May 24, 1952 the three of us walked along the trail, first passing what appeared to be an old hawk's nest about 40 feet up in a yellow birch. Less than a mile further we arrived at the point where the others had been attacked in 1951, and here we found another hawk's nest, again in yellow birch, close to the trail. Some distance further on we came to the 1952 site and at once heard the high pitched scolding note of first one and then another goshawk. We could see no sign of a nest until we happened to look straight up into a large yellow birch directly over our heads, beside the trail. The nest was again some 45 feet up, quite large, but not quite so deep and substantial as a Red-tail nest. Neither bird attacked, but when Mr. Paquette "squeaked" one of the hawks came at once and stooped at him and then perched close by. Climbing a spruce tree nearby I could see at least two and probably three white downy chicks, and occasionally we could hear a faint "peep" note.

On two subsequent trips by several members of the *Onondaga Audubon Society*, the Goshawks did not attack, but on trips by Mr. Kittendaugh alone one bird would persistently dive at him, on one occasion forcing him to the ground where he waved a staff over his head for protection. In 1951 the birds would drop at a steep angle directly at his head, but in 1952 the attacking bird would drop almost vertically, then level off and come in at eye-level, which Mr. Kittendaugh assured me was very disconcerting!

There was one full grown eyas perched on the nest on June 28.

A PARTIAL ALBINO HORNED OWL

A pair of Horned Owls nest in the heavy timber of Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville, N. Y., using nests built by Red-tailed Hawks which nest close by. On May 10, 1951, Mr. David Swetland and the writer captured a young owl that had recently left its nest, and noted that some of the flight feathers were pure white. Although not quite full length, primaries number 1, 2, 3 of the right wing, and 3, 4 of the left were albino, as were their respective primary coverts. The talon of the first toe of each foot was also without pigment. Eye color and other feathers were normal. The bird was photographed, banded and released.

On April 13, 1952, Mr. Walton Sabin and the writer flushed an owl from a hemlock midway between the 1952 owl's nest (made by Red-tails in 1951) in which there was at least one young owl, and the nest used by the owls in 1951 (the regular Red-tail nest, and now occupied by an incubating Red-tail). We immediately saw white feathers in each wing tip as the owl flew out, and as it passed under its nest of the year before, the Red-tail attacked it from above. Both birds disappeared from sight behind the bluff above Round Lake, but the Red-tail soon reappeared and settled on her nest. It is of considerable interest that this year-old owl was in the immediate vicinity of both its old nest and the new occupied owl's nest, apparently tolerated by the parent owls.

Walter R. Spofford
Fayetteville, N. Y.

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION THROUGH THE USE OF SPRING ARRIVAL DATES

During the spring of 1951, members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology launched a new study of the age-old problem of bird migration. By plotting arrival dates on a map they hoped to discover to what extent spring migration is influenced by the weather and whether or not birds move forward steadily or by occasional long hops.

Observations that spring indicated that the White-throated Sparrow, the only species then under study, moved northward by a series of hops, 7 to 10 days apart and that 300 miles might be covered in one hop. With such distances involved it was decided to increase the area under study. The support of cooperators from the Gulf to southern Canada was enlisted. New species were added — the Mourning Dove, Baltimore Oriole, and Canada Goose.

So encouraging were the results for the spring of 1952 that it was decided greatly to increase the scope of study. For 1953 the help of cooperators from the area east of the Rockies to the Atlantic seaboard is being enlisted. Additional species have been added. Of the 28 selected, 14 winter in part or entirely within our borders:

Canada Goose	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Myrtle Warbler
Marsh Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	Common Crow	Slate-colored Junco
Mourning Dove	House Wren	Chipping Sparrow
	Redwing Blackbird	White-throated Sparrow

(Arrival dates for above species are desired wherever wintering individuals

will not be confused with spring migrants; when in doubt report first date anyway.)

An additional 14 winter to the south of us:

Common Nighthawk	Barn Swallow	American Redstart
Chimney Swift	Purple Martin	Baltimore Oriole
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Eastern Kingbird	Black and White Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Wood Pewee	Yellow Warbler	

The *arrival date* only is desired for all species listed with the exception of the White-throat and Canada Goose. These latter are being studied in more detail. For them the following information is desired: dates of increases or decreases, main flights, date of departure of last birds, or, if possible, daily counts.

If you are already keeping arrival dates, we will appreciate having your 1953 dates for the species listed. If there is still time to obtain arrival dates for late migrants, please send them to us. The study will continue for at least five years so if you haven't heard about the project in time this year please plan to send in your reports for the spring of 1954 and thereafter.

Send all reports either to your regional Audubon Field Notes Editor or to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. A *postcard* listing species and arrival dates should be sufficient.

We are interested not only in your records but also in your support in finding additional cooperators. We should emphasize that we want the individual reports of each cooperator in a region and not local compilations of many records.

Already an able group of ornithologists are acting as advisors to this program. Yearly announcements will be forthcoming in many ornithological publications as to the progress of the study. The final goal is to interpret properly the effect of weather upon bird migration.

James H. Zimmerman, John V. Dennis, Chandler S. Robbins

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c/o Mr. Kenneth Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello, N. Y.

An exchange of publications has been in effect since early in 1949. In an effort to keep this list up-to-date on addresses each participating club was asked to send in any changes in name and address of the person who is to receive the publications during 1953. Most of the clubs responded and we are listing the new addresses above. If your club did not respond and there is a change to be made, or if some other club wishes to take part in this exchange please send me this information as soon as possible.

Mrs. William Gary Irving,
Van Houten Fields, West Nyack, N. Y.

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

SAMUEL R. MADISON, *Chairman, Conservation Committee*

It is heartening to be able to report that several of our wildlife friends are prospering. The common European Partridge, known locally as the Hungarian Partridge, was liberated in New York in the spring of 1909 (Eaton). It likes open farmlands, well sprinkled with grassfields and has become well established in the northern part of the State. It has also done well in the northern plains states and north into Canada. Its numbers have increased so much in New York that last autumn hunters enjoyed the first open season, limited to five days in the counties of Franklin, Jefferson and St. Lawrence.

The beaver too is flourishing again in New York. When the Dutch first arrived in the Hudson valley the beaver provided their first industry and Albany boomed with the expansion of the trade in beaver pelts. By 1900 it was estimated that only a dozen beaver survived in the State. Recent aerial animal surveys by the Conservation Department show an overabundance of beaver in the Adirondacks. As a result, the department has announced that there will be no bag limit and a 32-day open season in the Adirondacks starting March 20. The department reports that so many beaver dams have been built in the Adirondacks that choice winter feeding areas needed by deer have been inundated.

In Arizona the Desert Bighorn Sheep, protected by state law since 1912, have been added to the list of huntable big game animals. They have become well established in the Kofa and Cabeza Prieta game refuges in remote sections of Arizona, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The Arizona Fish and Game Commission has decided to allow limited hunting to alleviate the present unfavorable sex ratio.

Two closely related species, the Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse are in need of assistance. The National Wildlife Federation recently

announced the formation of a committee to help save the Prairie Chicken which once flourished in great numbers. The Prairie Chicken is not in danger of extinction, but its numbers have decreased greatly so that only four states — Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan — had enough to permit limited hunting last year. The aim of the committee is to assure their survival by the development of refuges of undisturbed grasslands in the Midwest in which the birds could live during the winter.

The remarkable courtship behavior of the male Prairie Chicken has led to its difficulties. During the breeding season the birds gather in open fields where the males inflate their ruddy-yellow skin pouches, erect their tufts and strut and rush at each other in violent bodily contact. The resonant booming call they produce attracts the poacher as well as the biologist and warden interested in their number. Ornithologists differ over whether the booming sound has a come-hither appeal to the hens or whether its purpose is to intimidate less virile males.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse is losing ground in Wisconsin and quick action is needed according to the Wisconsin Conservation Department. The Sharp-tail inhabit areas interspersed with grass and brush. Modern farming practices have eliminated suitable brush lands. So, too, have the forest crop incentive plans which are producing forest lands in which the grouse cannot exist. Action must be taken to retain the remaining grouse habitat and create additional areas, particularly in lands with poor soil and economically unimportant trees. Such action will not only assist the sharp-tails, but will also benefit the ruffed grouse and other birds and animals.

Forests are very much in the news these days. An old federal statute, enacted during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt and backed by Gifford Pinchot, the leading conservationist, has come to the rescue of a grove of towering sugar pines in California's Sierra Nevadas. The sugar is the mightiest of the pines. It ranks after the two Sequoias, the Sitka spruce and the douglas fir as the fifth greatest of American trees in size. The 370 acre grove contains thousands of pines, some centuries old and as high as 250 feet. There are sugar pines scattered amongst the forests of the Pacific Coast, but this grove is representative of growth which would probably never be seen again if a good sample were not preserved. The tract bearing the trees has been transferred to the United States Forestry Service's preserve under a 1909 statute under which the owner, the Pickering Lumber Company, received a comparable stand of expendable timber on nearby federal land.

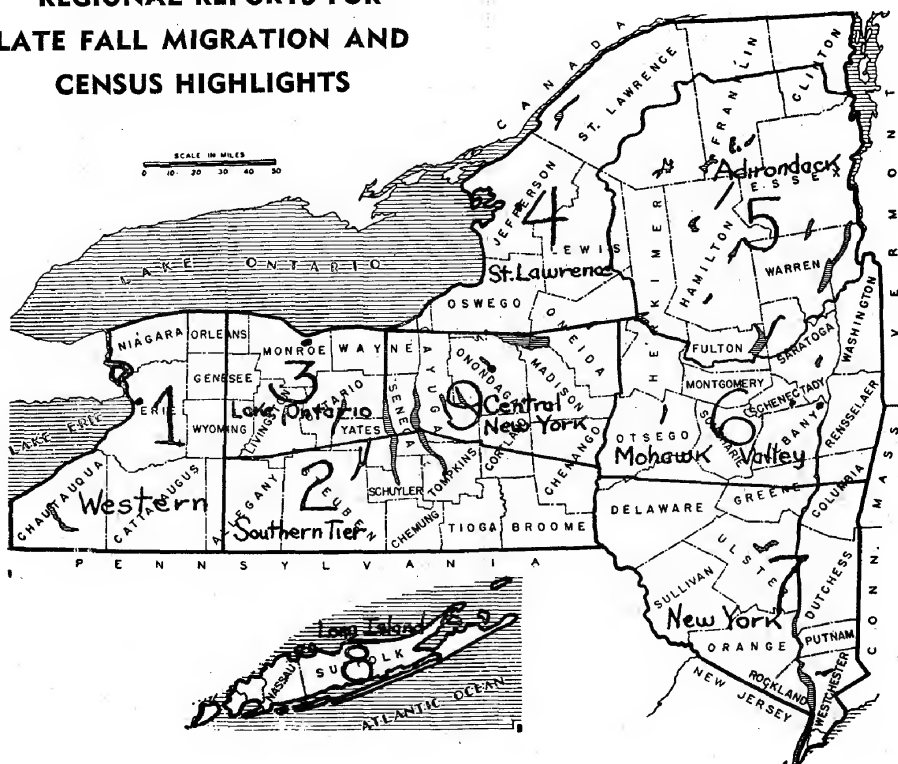
The grove is in the heart of the gold rush country, on Beaver Creek in Tuolumne County, 125 miles east of San Francisco and 25 miles northeast of Yosemite National Park. It is adjacent to Calaveras State Park, a 1950 acre stand of giant redwood trees.

Here in New York, a battle is being fought to save a forest. A Sunken Forest Committee has been created under the chairmanship of James N. Dunlop to prevent the destruction of this miniature wilderness. Although small, Sunken Forest is a primeval forest just east of Point O' Woods on Fire Island, a sandspit off the south shore of Long Island. It has developed through the centuries sheltered by high dunes on the ocean side, producing some of the oldest holly trees in America. The forest is endangered by real

estate developers and the Committee is trying to save it by a campaign to raise funds to purchase the area.

The United States and Canada are joining forces to eradicate the destructive sea lampreys from the Great Lakes region. This twelve inch eel-like predator of fish has invaded the Lakes and threatens to wipe out the lake trout and other fish. They subsist on other fish by attaching themselves to their victims by their mouths and feeding on their blood. A proposed treaty calls for war on the lamprey by the use of mechanical and electrical eradicators, developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, in streams of both nations flowing into the Lakes.

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR LATE FALL MIGRATION AND CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS



REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1 — WESTERN NEW YORK

The weather during the fall of 1952 was seldom such as might hasten the southward departure of any bird which found itself in the western end of the state at summer's end. Those species which had any hardiness at all seemed little disposed to hurry, and resultant late records were received for a larger number than usual.

Loons — Ducks:

Only 2 Common Loons were reported on the October 12 Fall Duck Census of the **Buffalo Ornithological Society**, and only 8 on their Christmas Census on December 21. No Red-throated Loons were reported. Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were numerous, and Squaw Island contributed a Western Grebe on October 25th (Nathan et al.) and an Eared Grebe December 19th (Mitchell et al.). A good Canada Goose flight contrasted with the poorest swan migration in years. No Blue or Snow Geese were recorded. We had an excellent duck count on October 12, with most of the dabbling species giving an especially good account of themselves. Two Harlequin Ducks were found in the gorge below the Falls on November 23 (B.O.S. trip), and have apparently decided to spend the winter with us. Comorants were both late in arriving and few in number.

Hawks — Owls:

More records have reached us of Eastern Turkeys in Allegany State Park and nearby New York State areas. The shore bird migration was below normal, probably due to high water in many favored haunts. However, the number of Golden Plover observed was encouraging,—maximum count of 200 on September 28, and 67 on the October 12 census. Late records included Black-bellied Plover (November 23), Killdeer (November 29), and Greater Yellow-legs (December 1). A Northern Phalarope, rare here, was found October 25 at Niagara Falls (K. and E. Praemassing, Baker, et al.). Ten species of gulls were reported, including Glaucous, Iceland, Kumlien's, and Kittiwake from the Falls, and Franklin's and Little Gulls from the upper river opposite Buffalo.

Swifts — Shrikes:

On October 12 Anderle observed a Raven flying along the lake shore near Irving. This is an extreme rarity in western New York. A very late Wood Thrush was reported the same day by Mrs. Norma Annabal from Batavia.

Vireos — Warblers:

On the October 12 B.O.S. census, most observers found warblers unusually numerous. Not only was the count of Myrtles an all-time high (888), but no less than 15 species were reported. There were even November records of Yellow (one at the Avery feeding station, Hamburg, on the 17th), Western Palm (one found at Tiffet St., Buffalo, on the 17th by Schaffner), and an almost incredible Kentucky (on the 2nd by the Klabundes and Vaughan at Lewiston).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

A good many Red-wings, Rustys, and Grackles are still with us as this is written, and will doubtless winter. Northern fringillids, influenced by the same mild weather, were slow to appear. Snow Buntings, although present in good numbers later, did not appear until November 16, when the Axtells found one individual on Grand Island. A few Evening Grosbeaks were reported from November 15th on, and a single Redpoll on the 30th. No Crossbills have appeared as yet. A second record for our territory was that of an adult Clay-colored Sparrow found on September 27 on Squaw Island by Nathan.

Clark S. Beardslee
132 McKinley Ave.
Kenmore 17, N. Y.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 1)

(Including some records from Region 9)

In general, fall migration was poor in the Southern Tier. A hard freeze occurred in the second week of October, and snow fell the last week, but November and December were marked by little rain or snow, and above-average temperatures. 61 species were seen on the annual New Year's Day census of the Cayuga Lake Basin.

Loons — Ducks:

The first Horned Grebe was reported October 12 by Rosche, and 72 were seen on the January 1st census. Great blue Herons were still at Montezuma on Nov. 1 (Kaufmann, et al.) and American Bitterns and a Black-crowned Night Heron were seen Oct. 12 by Rosche. Green Herons left Binghamton Oct. 11 (Bemont).

Few diving ducks were reported with practically no Scoters or Old-Squaws. There were relatively few Redheads, Scaups, and Wood Ducks, but more Canvasbacks than usual. Baldpates, Pintails, and most Teal were gone by the end of October; however, A. A. Allen reported 10 Green-winged Teal on November 17. A late Wood Duck was seen at Montezuma on Nov. 2 (Rosche). Buffleheads were seen Nov. 17 (Allen).

Mallards and Black Ducks are on the increase and many are wintering in the area, attracted by the large amount of corn left by mechanical pickers in the larger cornfields. About 40 Canada Geese also are wintering, although the fall goose flight seemed poor.

K. Parkes saw a hybrid Shoveller-Blue-winged Teal at Montezuma on Oct. 11. A dead immature Lesser Snow Goose was found by Parkes at Stewart Park, Ithaca, Nov. 22.

Hawks — Owls:

Hawk migration was poor. The first Rough-legged Hawk was reported by Rosche on Oct. 12. Marsh Hawks were seen all fall and winter. One Pigeon Hawk was seen Oct. 13 (Allen).

Most of the shore birds were gone from the Hog Hole at southern end of Cayuga by the second week in October, except Yellowlegs which lingered into November, and Killdeer, which were reported on the January census. Few Woodcock or Snipe were seen all fall.

There were fewer Gulls than in other years, and counts in December and early January showed more Ring-billed than Herring Gulls, a reversal of the usual situation.

The last Common Tern was reported Oct. 6.

Mourning Doves were plentiful, and 13 were seen on the January 1st census. The albino Cuckoo reported in the last issue died on Dec. 6.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Woodpeckers occurred in normal numbers, with a slight increase in wintering Flickers. A Pileated made frequent calls in the residential district of Ithaca all fall.

Phoebes lingered until the middle of October. A pale cream-colored Phoebe was observed at the Knottles farm near Etna on Oct. 13 (Hoyt, Kellogg, et al.).

Tree Swallows in numbers were seen by the **Field Ornithology Club of Cornell** on Oct. 12, and five were seen (Allen) on Oct. 27 when there was snow on the ground. A few Rough-winged Swallows and one Cliff Swallow were reported at Montezuma on Oct. 5 (Rosche, Seeber).

The Tufted Titmouse which has been in Stewart Park, Ithaca, for some time, was seen there on the Jan. 1st census. The first Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared Oct. 20 (Fischer) and the first Winter Wren, Oct. 21.

One Mockingbird was seen all fall and in January near Ithaca (Patterson) and a Catbird on the census (Hewitt). The last date for Olive-backed Thrush was Oct. 5 (Seeber), Oct. 18 (Bemont) in Binghamton. Hermit Thrush, Oct. 27 (Allen). Robins were seen frequently through December. Bluebirds were scarce.

Pipits occurred in large flocks during the fall, and 500 were reported Oct. 20 (Allen).

Vireos — Warblers:

No Philadelphia Vireos were reported this fall. Blue-headed Vireos were present until Oct. 20. Binghamton Worm-eating Warbler seen until Oct. 18. No Orange-crowned Warblers reported. 4 Western Palm Warblers on Oct. 11 (Rosche), 3 Myrtles in Renwick on Nov. 30 (Long, et al.), and 1 Myrtle reported on Jan. 12 (Bock, et al.). Black-polls were fairly common until end of first week of October; Binghamton had some until Oct. 25. One Northern Yellowthroat was seen on January 1st census (Barbehenn).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

One Bronzed Grackle was reported Nov. 18 at Etna (Hoyt) Redwings and Cowbirds were gone by third week of November and no Rusty Blackbirds were reported after Nov. 30. The last date for Rose-breasted Grosbeak was Oct. 20, and no Purple Finches were reported after Nov. 10.

The first Evening Grosbeaks (a small flock) were seen at Arnot Forest, south of Ithaca, on November 8 (W. J. Hamilton III), but December brought only a few reports of individual birds. A Grosbeak banded Feb. 26, '52 by Hoyt was captured Dec. 29, '52 in Berlin, N. H.

A flock of 125 Common Redpolls and at least 1 Hoary was seen on Connecticut Hill Nov. 23rd (Bock, et al.). Pine Siskins were reported Nov. 7 (Long, Bock) and unusually large flocks of Goldfinches were seen all fall, with many wintering. A small flock of Red Crossbills was seen Nov. 16th in Ithaca (Risebrough, Bock).

No Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported all fall. Last date for Savannah Sparrow: Nov. 16 (Seeber), for Vesper, Oct. 11 (Rosche), for Chipping Oct. 13 (Nutt, Fischer). Tree Sparrows were reported first on Oct. 11, but not seen in numbers until Oct. 25th. A Field Sparrow on Dec. 6 (Hoyt) and 6 (six) Swamp Sparrows on Jan. 1st indicate that these are wintering in the area. A White-throat was banded on Jan. 13 (Hoyt) and there have been other reports of them in early January.

Laplong Longspurs were seen near Interlaken on Dec. 6 (Seeber) and Snow Buntings near Myers Point, Nov. 26 (Allen).

Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt
Etna, New York.

REGION 2 — SOUTHERN TIER (PART 2)

The winter in the area has been mild and open for the most part, with little snow. There have been a number of instances when temperature ranges have been extreme, rising to the upper forties or lower fifties, and within ten or twelve hours taking a thirty degree drop. The lakes have not frozen over, and there has been almost a dearth of waterfowl. There have been unusual occurrences of both land and water species incidental to a mild season.

Loons — Gulls:

Loons have been almost absent so far as Keuka lake is concerned. Grebes, also, are far less numerous than usual, Horned Grebes and an occasional Pied-billed being the only ones reported. There was a Great blue Heron at the Keuka outlet at Dresden on December 20, and one reported from Avoca by Mrs. Carter on November 15. Mrs. Carter saw a lone Brant at Hammondsport on October 28, and Prof. Frank Guthrie of the Keuka Park club saw 8 Brant as they flew not far over his head, and cackling, as they headed for the lake. He obtained a good look at them, and their utterances were noticeably different from those of geese. Canada Geese began coming in the last week in September. As to ducks, there are rafts of Red-heads and Canvasbacks on Seneca Lake, a few Old-squaws there, and on both Seneca and Keuka lakes a scattering of the more common things—Blacks, Mallards, Scaups, Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, while Ring-necked Ducks have been almost absent, only a few being found here and there. Black Ducks have been feeding in old corn fields two and three miles back from Keuka lake, and I frequently see them flying out and back. Mergansers have been scarce: Mrs. Carter noted 7 Americans on the Cohocton river on January 20. Hooded Mergansers, 3 or 4, have been on the basin at Branchport. A few Mourning Doves have been in the Branchport vicinity all winter, one flock of 26 having been seen. The usual gulls have been present, Herring, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed, the latter on Seneca Lake. Two Killdeer at Dresden all winter.

Hawks — Owls:

Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks have wintered quite generally over the region. Great Horned Owls began hooting regularly the second week in November. Screech Owls are calling yet, but there are not many reported. A few Short-eared Owls are wintering along the Flat Street road a mile east of Benton Centre, but I have had no reports of Long-eared Owls.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Mrs. McMurtry reported a Red-breasted Nuthatch from Wellsville on November 28. They have been unusually scarce or absent from the region this winter. Winter Wren is wintering at Hammondsport, and there are the usual occurrences of Robins and Bluebirds here and there. Mrs. McMurtry had a flock of 5 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in her yard on November 30. My last note of Myrtle Warbler was on November 17 at my home here.

Blackbird — Sparrows:

Mrs. J. B. Darling reporting for the Watkins-Montour Falls club has 5 Red-wings for the Seneca area on February 12. My last record of Cowbird was on November 16. Mrs. McMurtry had 10 Evening Grosbeaks on November 24, and no more till 3 came to the feeder of Mr. James Randall at Riverside on February 4 and 5. A few fed a few days the first week in February at Andover. This has been a winter for Redpolls in the region, coming in November. They have mostly occurred in small flocks, but Mrs. John Whitaker of the Keuka Park club saw a flock of about 1000 the third week in February a few miles west of Penn Yan. A few Pine Siskins have been seen here and there. Mrs. F. A. Cole, at the edge of Penn Yan, has had a Towhee and a Fox Sparrow all winter, and the writer banded a Fox Sparrow on January 8. I also banded a Swamp Sparrow on January 26, which was retrapped a number of times until February 14. Lapland Longspurs have been reported from the uplands back from the lakes, usually mixed with Snow Buntings.

Chas. J. Spiker
Branchport, N. Y.

REGION 3 — LAKE ONTARIO

October was a rather dry month, with the precipitation only half of normal. However, Lake Ontario remained high enough to cover many of the shorebird feeding beaches and forced them to flooded mud flats such as we have at Ling Road.

November and December were mild with little snowfall which resulted in many unusual records of wintering migrants.

Loons — Ducks:

American Egret was abundant most of August with as many as thirty-four being seen at the Stutson Street marsh. The duck migration started on the ninth of August with a report of Pintail. Large flocks of dabbling ducks found food and protection in Rose's Marsh, west of Manitou. Large numbers of all three species of Scoter have been seen along the lake front all fall (Listman and Kemnitzers).

The first fall record of the European Widgeon in Monroe County was observed by Richard O'Hara. The bird, a female or immature, was seen in the lake off Durand-Eastman Park on November 28.

Double-crested Cormorants were numerous, being reported on nine days during October. These may be from the colony of 20 pair that nested on Gull Island in Henderson Harbor.

Hawks — Owls:

A good flight of Rough-legged Hawks (eleven birds on October 26) was observed, with most of these birds in the flight phase. One Parasitic Jaeger was observed flying along the lakeshore at Braddock's Bay on October 4 (Barry-Listman-VanBeurden).

Great Black-backed Gulls remained with us and several could always be seen in any large flock of gulls. In reverse of other years, the Ring-billed Gull outnumbered the Herrings.

Another first record for Monroe County was the October 4 observation of a Sabine's Gull at the lakeshore (Barry-Listman-VanBeurden). An immature Kittiwake on November 8 was also a first record for the county (Listman-VanBeurden). Forester's Terns were present through October with a report of six birds on the twenty-fifth.

We had a flight of Northern Phalarope between August 23rd to 30th with a report of twelve birds coming from Manitou. Manitou also reported a Purple Sandpiper on October 25 (O'Hara).

Swifts — Shrikes:

A Hermit Thrush wintered at Durand-Eastman Park and was heard singing as late as November 29 (Dolan). Tree Swallows reached maximum abundance September 13 when reports of 3,000 were turned in. Scattered reports of Cliff Swallows came in at the same time.

Vireos — Warblers:

The fall warbler migration seemed normal, but due to the mild weather a Northern Yellow-throat and seven Myrtle Warblers remained with us through to the Christmas Census in December. Also reported at that time was a Red-eyed Vireo

from Durand (McNett), a most unusual record, also observed by Mortons.

Blackbirds — Finches:

Cowbird, Bronzed Grackle, and Red-wings were reported through December and as many as 75 Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Flynn Road on the 27th of December.

Pine Siskin arrived as early as October 8. Unusual numbers of Redpoll and Siskin have been turned in all fall, but few Pine Grosbeak and no Evening Grosbeak have been seen.

James H. Barlow
61 Morville Drive
Rochester, N. Y.

REGION 4 — ST. LAWRENCE

Loons — Ducks:

Common Loon, 4 Sandy Pond, Nov. 1 (Farnhams and Scheider).

Red-throated Loon, 6 same time and place.

Horned Grebe, one seen in St. Lawrence River at Cape Vincent Nov. 20, fifty at Sandy Pond Nov. 2 (Scheider and Farnhams).

Pied-billed Grebe, last seen Nov. 5.

Am. Goldeneye present in St. Lawrence River at Ogdensburg Nov. 6 and later.

White-winged Scoter, one reported from Sandy Pond Nov. 29 (Scheider), also three Oct. 12, Sandy Pond.

Surf Scoter, one reported from Sandy Pond Nov. 29 (Scheider).

Hawks — Owls:

Red-tailed Hawk, last date Oct. 24.

Marsh Hawk, last date Oct. 21.

Rough-legged Hawk, marked fall flight, particularly in Jefferson Co. mid-October to mid-November, a few reported after this date.

One Northern Phalarope, winter plumage, Sandy Pond Inlet Nov. 2 (Scheider and Farnhams).

Wilson Snipe, one near Cape Vincent Nov. 5.

Mourning Dove, last seen Nov. 18.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Tree Sparrow, first date Oct. 29.

Redpoll, large flock, est. 250, near Gouverneur Nov. 18.

Red-winged Blackbird, Nov. 29 at Sandy Pond (Scheider).

Snow Bunting, Nov. 29 at Sandy Pond (Scheider).

Evening Grosbeak, a few reported in November from scattered localities.

John Belknap
92 Clinton St.
Gouverneur, N. Y.

REGION 5 — ADIRONDACK

The fall and early winter season was definitely colder and wetter than the past two years. First snow on October 10th. Permanent snow began November 20th and continued heavier than for past five years until mid-January. Good cone crop in the Adirondacks.

Loons — Ducks:

The fall and early winter brought a fairly good flight of ducks along Lake Champlain. About 125 Snow Geese and 4 Blue Geese near Port Kent in early December. 15 of the Snows still present on December 25th. The importance of the Champlain Valley as a flyway for many species is becoming more evident the more it is studied. During first half of October each year heavy crow flights occur down this valley.

No White Herons were reported in Adirondack region this summer or fall.

Hawks — Owls:

So far we have been unable to find any evidence of hawk flyways in the Adirondacks. If any readers have ever found any such points, the information would be welcomed for further study.

Spruce Grouse reports continue in small but steady fashion each year now suggesting that the bird may be slowly extending itself. Ruffed Grouse showed some evidence of a beginning decline after the peak of the past two years.

Parasitic Jaeger appeared on December 13th off Au Sable Point on Lake Champlain (Lesperance). May have been related to storm condition over New England just preceding.

On the same date and at the same place as the Jaeger, Mr. Lesperance saw a single Dovekie. Two most unusual records for this region.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Mrs. R. E. Mason of Essex, N. Y., had a Carolina Wren at her feeder eating suet from mid-October until at least November 20th. She was able to band the bird. This is our first proven report for this species in the area.

Cedar Waxwings were unusually plentiful in Saranac Lake area this fall, where there was an abundant crop of mountain ash fruit.

Northern Shrikes have been unseen this winter.

Vireos — Warblers:

No observations of note.

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Evening Grosbeaks were present in Saranac Lake in small numbers all summer, where they unquestionably are breeding. Several observations of young being fed by adults at feeding stations. A heavy flight was noted moving south over De Bar Mountain November 21st to 23rd but they apparently went right on through central area as there was no increase in numbers until mid January. Since then the birds have markedly increased. Very few banded birds among present population.

Redpolls and Snow Buntings present in good numbers since mid November.

Pine Siskins started arriving in October with a particularly heavy influx on October 28th at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake.

Both Crossbills fairly common since early September. No Pine Grosbeaks this season.

White-throated Sparrow has wintered as usual in Saranac Lake.

Christmas Census in Saranac Lake - Lake Placid area on December 28th yielded 20 species with no unusual findings. A census on Christmas day by Thomas Lesperance in the Port Kent region along Lake Champlain yielded 23 species including a flock of 15 Snow Geese, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Mourning Dove and Goshawk.

Gordon M. Mead, M. D.
Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 6 — MOHAWK VALLEY

October and the first half of November were cooler than usual, and exceedingly dry; no appreciable precipitation occurred for a period of 25 days in October. The latter part of November and December were considerably warmer than average, with above normal precipitation. A crest flight occurred on September 27, following a cold front of the previous day. Saratoga Lake was open or partially open through December.

Loons — Ducks:

Grebes were recorded in about usual numbers at Saratoga Lake and Niskayuna; a Red-necked Grebe on Oct. 13 at the lake; Horned Grebe, 10 on Oct. 13 and 27 on Nov. 1; 50 Pied-billed Grebes at Niskayuna Oct. 19. A flock of 12 Canada Geese on the Dec. 27 Christmas Count typified a tendency toward summer hold-overs. Pintails were reported on Nov. 11 and Dec. 28. A flock of 25 Teal, comprising both Blue-winged and Green-winged, was observed at Saratoga Lake Oct. 12. Four Canvas-backs were seen here Nov. 2, and others reported in early Dec. Ruddy Duck seen Nov. 16 and Dec. 10, the latest local record (Hallenbeck).

Hawks — Owls:

Peregrine Falcon: one Oct. 4 (Stone) and one Nov. 2 (Bartlett). Wilson's Snipe appears to be becoming more common, with several rather late records thru Nov. 2. A Northern Phalarope, rare here, was observed in shallow water at the edge of Saratoga Lake Nov. 1, and remained in the same locality thru Nov. 5 (Turrentine et al). Several flocks of Mourning Doves have been observed during the winter, including one on the Schenectady Christmas Count, Dec. 27. The latest recent record of Black-billed Cuckoo was obtained at Niskayuna Oct. 4 (Stone). One record of Snowy Owl, in late Nov.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, record late date Oct. 9 at Loudonville (French). Belted Kingfisher reported on Troy Christmas Count Dec. 28. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen in Central Park, Schenectady on Oct. 19. Latest date for Acadian Flycatcher Sept. 29. Also latest date since 1916 for Tree Swallow, three on Oct. 4 and one Oct. 5 (Stone). Winter Wren was observed in greater numbers than usual. Long-billed Marsh Wren recorded on Nov. 1, a record late date; also ten were reported on Oct. 5. American Robin reported on Dec. 17 and Dec. 27. Bluebirds were notable by their absence. The Schenectady Christmas Count included a Ruby-crowned Kinglet; another late date for Water Pipit — Nov. 9.

Vireos — Warblers:

Vireos and warblers set new records for late migrants:
Solitary Vireo, Oct. 18, latest recent record (Hallenbeck).
Red-eyed Vireo, Oct. 6, equals record (Yunick).
Philadelphia Vireo, Oct. 3, local record (French).
Yellow Warbler, Oct. 5, latest record (Hallenbeck).
Cape May Warbler, Oct. 8, local record (Yunick).
Black-throated Blue Warbler, Oct. 8, record (French).
Black-throated Green Warbler, Nov. 3, very late; record (French).
Pine Warbler, dead immature found Oct. 12, latest recent record (Baker).
Common Yellowthroat, Oct. 19, and record late transient Oct. 26 (Stone).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Red-winged Blackbird and Purple Grackle reported on Christmas Census. Record late date for Indigo Bunting, Oct. 5. A Dickcissel was reported at a feeder in Amsterdam. Evening Grosbeak began arriving in late Dec., few in number. Common Redpolls on Nov. 1 were early. Twelve Pine Siskins reported Dec. 22. Late dates for Lincoln's Sparrow were Oct. 4 and 11. There have been several records of wintering Swamp Sparrows.

F. R. Turrentine
110 Union St.
Schenectady, N. Y.

REGION 7 — NEW YORK

After an early threat of a rigorous winter late in the fall, the weather moderated unseasonably. Many January days stayed above freezing, and some produced afternoon temperatures in the 50's. Rockland County underwent a severe but localized ice storm on Jan. 9-10 that may have extirpated Carolina wrens as in 1935-36.

Christmas counts were sensational — except for groups who chanced to pick Dec. 21, a day of rain and fog. Bear Mountain - Harriman Park set a new record of 41 species, **Rockland Audubon Society** a new high of 70 species. **Sullivan County Audubon Society** census Dec. 27 listed 26 species. Early winter was marked by unusually high number of Grebes, Ducks, Bald Eagles, Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, Starlings, Pine Siskins, Juncos — and by relative scarcity of northern visitants.

Loons — Ducks:

Common Loons very scarce along the Sound and far outnumbered by Red-throated Loons (Ken Harte). Later species on RAS Christmas count; only the third occurrence for the Rockland area. Both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes also on RAS census for the first time; late date of Jan. 3 for Pied-billed Grebe in the Bear Mountain Park area. Sullivan County had P. B. Grebe Dec. 27. Rise in winter duck population led by Ring-necked and Ruddy: 80 Ring-necks at Kensico Reservoir Dec. 28 (Harte); 200 Ruddies off Piermont (Betty Barron) through the winter. Brant recorded for only the second time in the Rockland area, off Fort Montgomery Oct. 24 (John C. Orth). Orth noted four Redheads off Stony Point Oct. 26 and two on Dec. 27. Lone female White-winged Scoter Dec. 7, Sackett Lake, Sullivan County (W. P. Carr).

Hawks — Owls:

Bald Eagles arrived in numbers at the Tappan Zee rather early, with as many as eight in early December. Ken Harte reports a Pigeon Hawk at New Rochelle on Nov. 1, Homer S. Kelsey a Broad-winged Hawk in Ramapo township (Rockland County) on Dec. 27. Ruffed Grouse are declining in the Bear Mountain - Harriman Park but seem to be holding up better in their newer territory farther south in Rockland and in Sullivan. Great Black-backed Gulls are more numerous around Nyack than ever before. From Nov. 9 till Jan. several Snowy Owl reports, one shot (Carr).

Swifts — Shrikes:

A Phoebe was found near New City on Dec. 27 (Ruth Steffens). Red-breasted Nuthatches started strong in Rockland County during October, then disappeared. Three dates are reported in December, however, from Mamaroneck (Mrs. F. J. Steinhart). Brown Creepers were unprecedentedly numerous in Rockland at census time but scarce in Westchester (Harte). RAS counted two Mockingbirds on its Dec. 27th census, one at a new site near Congers.

Vireos — Warblers:

Myrtle Warblers were far above average in abundance in suitable bayberry areas. A late Prairie Warbler turned up in Scarsdale on Oct. 10 (Harte) and a (Yellow) Palm Warbler at New City on the very late date of Dec. 23 (Ruth Steffens). Bay-breasted Warbler, Roosa Gap, Sullivan County late fall, considered heretofore rare (Carr).

Blackbirds — Sparrows:

Cardinals are unaccountably down in numbers in Rockland County. Two Dickcissels visited the feeding station of Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper in Upper Nyack from Oct. 19 through mid-January. Towhees were almost common in Rockland, including one singing his full song on Dec. 27. A Grasshopper Sparrow, probably injured but spry, was noted near Stony Point on Dec. 27 (Orth et al.), the first winter record in the area for this bird.

A flock of nine Evening Grosbeaks arrived in Sullivan County on Nov. 16 and have been noted frequently up to late January (Carr). House Finches have been seen several times in Sullivan County since last spring, most recently a male at a feeder on Nov. 26 (Carr). On its Dec. 27 Christmas census, **Sullivan County Audubon Society** came up with a real Believe-It-or-Not item: three male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Carr reports that all three were seen at 75 ft. and studied at length through 7x and 8x binoculars, with note of the wing markings and also the rosy bib. In Sullivan County, a Snow Bunting was picked up alive on Dec. 10 and turned over to Kenneth Nivens; it was banded and released ten days later, but no other buntings were reported. Rockland County had one or two Snow Buntings in late November, but none since.

Robert F. Deed
Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 8 — LONG ISLAND

Moderate fall weather prevailed into December with practically no snow, and that which fell disappeared rapidly. Many birds lingered with the good berry crop. At Jones Beach, numbers of Hermit Thrushes, several Catbirds and numerous Robins stayed into early winter. Here could be recognized, on several occasions in late October, the subdued song of the northern or Black-backed Robin (*Turdus m. nigrideus*) identifiable by its wilder, ringing notes to one familiar with this subspecies in the north. A Western Tanager associated with the Robins and Hermit Thrushes there for several weeks and to the end of the period.

The fall of 1952 was unique in the scarcity of all goose records, particularly of those of Snow and Blue Goose, and its abundance of reports of both Dickcissel and Lark Sparrow.

Loons — Ducks:

There was no great flight of Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Cormorants or Brant reported. The Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron had left by mid-October. American Egret also disappeared about that time, although, usually in recent years, it has been reported into early November. The White Pelican, appearing at Mill Neck in mid-June, was still present during December. A Leach's Petrel was found dead at Rockaway, September 7 (**Brooklyn Bird Club**). Although a few flocks of Canada Geese were reported and a Snow Goose was seen at Gilgo in late September, there were few or no fall records later of the rarer Geese; however, usual heavy concentrations of Canada Geese and Brant arrived in the winter. Among ducks, the Baldpate was very numerous, and goodly numbers of Canvas-backs were present on Western Long Island. The Gadwell, Shoveller, Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser were fairly common. The Ruddy Duck was scarcer than usual and there was no report of European Teal.

Hawks — Owls:

Hawk counts on September 23 coordinated with the Fish and Wildlife Service's widespread census. Three lists — Far Rockaway (J. Bull), Moriches (R. Wilcox), and Orient (R. Latham) — contained principally falcons with very few Buteos, as to be expected. The total consisted of three Red-tail Hawks, one Broad-wing Hawk, nine Marsh Hawks, 13 Ospreys, 38 Pigeon Hawks, eight Sparrow Hawks and one Duck Hawk. A month later (October 25) a good flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks came through. Unusual was a Gyrfalcon (light phase) at Short Beach, November 1 (P. Murphy). About a week later a dark Gyrfalcon was reported on western Long Island. There were no reports this fall of Yellow Rail; very few of Black Rails, but several of Florida Gallinule. The general early sandpiper flight was light as to unusual species; two Golden Plover were present at Idlewild on November 23. Willets were comparatively uncommon; there were few or no Wilson's Phalarops, a few Northern and no Red Phalaropes coming to the attention of this writer. There was no very noticeable flight of Hudsonian Curlew, Upland Plover, Stilt Sandpiper or Baird's Sandpiper and comparatively few Godwits, although there was one late Marbled Godwit at Montauk, November 6 (G. Raynor) and another present in December at Moriches. There was a good late flight of shorebirds, with 200 Black-bellied Plovers and 800 Red-backed Sandpipers at Idlewood, October 26 (J. Mayer). Fair numbers of these lingered into winter. The first Purple Sandpiper was seen at Montauk on November 6 (G. Raynor). Bonaparte's Gulls showed up at Fire Island, August 23. Few Gull rarities were reported into early winter. There was a good flight of Black Terns in September; few Forster's and Caspian Terns were reported, but one late Caspian Tern was seen at Jones Beach, November 23 (J. Bull). There was no large flocking of Black Skimmers peculiar to the last five years, and there appears to be some decrease of breeding numbers of this bird on Long Island in the last few years, probably due to increasing Herring Gull nestings and a recent custom of grass planting on the newly pumped sand, causing it to vegetate rapidly. The Mourning Dove was abundant into winter. After late fall storms a few Dovekies were found inland, some alive. One or two Murres were recorded at Montauk, and next to Dovekies, the Razor-billed Auk was the most frequent Alcid reported. There were no Snowy Owl records, few Barred or Great Horned Owl reports and only two of Saw-whet Owl.

Swifts — Shrikes:

Few reports of Cliff Swallows came in, but a record Purple Martin concentration was observed, with 2,000 at Lake Ronkonkoma, August 30, in the early morning. This exceeds all Long Island records for abundance of this species (H. Darrow). One or two Red-headed Woodpeckers, the same of Arkansas Kingbirds, and two or three Mockingbirds, constituted the fall reports for these species. Red-breasted Nuthatches were not as common as last year; Short-billed Marsh Wren was last seen November 1 (Idlewild), and five or six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were recorded from early September to October 4. The Migrant Shrike was less common than last year, and the Northern Shrike was reported only once in late fall.

Vireos — Warblers:

The Blue-headed Vireo passed through in regular numbers; the Warbling Vireo migrated early almost unnoticed, and there were only one or two records of Philadelphia Vireos that came in this fall.

The Warbler migration was poor, except on western Long Island. Individual Magnolia, Bay-breasted and Hooded Warblers appeared, August 4, at Massapequa, but later concentrations did not materialize, and migration was straggly to the middle of September, except for the Bay-breasted Warbler which was more common than usual. There were few Tennessee and Cape May Warblers. A good flight of Parula Warblers came through September 23. The Myrtle Warbler appeared early, with six at Heckscher Park, August 26 (Wm. Reid, Jr.). On extreme western Long Island, at Riis Park and at Idlewild, warbler migration was somewhat better than eastward, and stragglers of a half-dozen species remained or passed through in early November. Very few Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded. Several Yellow-breasted Chats were found in early winter from Massapequa westward. An immature Western Tanager, first found November 23 at Jones Beach (W. Sedwitz), was seen regularly into December.

Close to a dozen reports came in of both Dickcissel and Lark Sparrow, mostly coastal and from Gilgo westward. A tremendous flight of Siskins and Goldfinches passed through during October, and a good flight of Red Crossbills, with a flock of at least 80 at Jones Beach, appeared in late fall. On October 26, while observing large number of Juncos, an Oregon Junco was reported at Jones Beach (Bull). White-crowned Sparrows were very numerous. Lapland Longspurs came through regularly in late October, and a flock of 40 were reported at Idlewood in early November (J. Mayer, G. Rose). Snow Buntings were reported first on November 10, with flocks recorded of up to 60 since.

John J. Elliott
3994 Park Ave.
Seaford, Long Island, New York

REGION 9 — FINGER LAKES

Fall migration records up to October 1, 1952, were reported in the last issue of The Kingbird. However, two important breeding records were omitted from this report. There are of Golden-winged Warbler in the Pine Plains region near Geneva feeding young on 6/28 (Miss Holtby), and young birds held in hand 7/6 (Dr. and Mrs. Munford); also, Upland Plover at 3 locations in Seneca County during summer with young at one location (Walker), and adult with 3 young on 7/6 (Munfords). Diurnal movement of birds was quite spotty and sporadic and in general was quite extended. For example, large numbers of plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, and several species of sandpipers were still present along the lower St. Lawrence River Valley and the Atlantic coast in Canada during late August. Some of these species were observed at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in good numbers in the same period of August 24-30.

Some of the more interesting late fall observations include Barn and Tree Swallows 10/26, Wood Thrush and Black-poll Warbler 10/14, Cowbirds 11/29, Pipits 10/16 and 18, flocks of Robins 10/18, White-crowned Sparrow 10/24, White-throated Sparrow 12/8, Vesper Sparrow 11/2, flocks of Prairie horned Larks 11/10, and Killdeer 12/28; however, following the first snow at Geneva on October 20,

there was a rapid decline in population of land birds and some increases in water birds, such as ducks and geese. The most unusual record on winter residence is that of a Mockingbird by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Utter, Seneca Falls, N. Y., from Nov. 3 to Feb. 22. Others are: Double-crested Cormorant 10/25; 70 Brant at M. W. R. 10/19; Green-winged Teal, Shoveller (40) 1,000 plus American & Red-breasted Merganser W. R.; 1 Golden and 2 Black-bellied Plover on 11/16; Pectoral, Red-backed Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs on 10/26 (M. W. R.) by O. A. S. 1 Iceland (1st year) and 1 Kumlein's Gull (adult) Fulton by Hillmont & Scheider. Brunnich's Murre — 1 shot at Cross Lake about mid-December and 1 seen at Cross Lake after above bird was taken 12/20; 1 Indigo Bunting, Oneida Lake (Scheider) 12/7; few reports of Purple Finch in November. Several reports of Pine Siskins and Redpolls in early November; one male Dickcissel at feeding station of Mr. & Mrs. O. M. Edwards in Cazenovia for 3 weeks prior to Dec. 21.

Loons — Ducks:

One Common Loon, 1 Pied-bill Grebe at Canandaigua 1/18, and Canada Geese 1/15 (Ward). Practically all species of diving ducks appeared after October 1. By October 19 Horned Grebes, Canada Geese, Red-heads, Scaups and Ruddy Ducks were fairly common (Gambrell et al); and up to 3,000 Redheads; 500 Lesser Scaups; 300 Greater Scaups; 40 American Goldeneye (200 north end of Cayuga 1/24/53, **Onondaga Audubon Society**); 50 American, 2 Hooded and 5 Red-breasted Merganser; 2 Ring-necked Ducks; 7 Bufflehead; 40 Mallards; 100 Black Duck; 25 Ruddy Duck; and 60 Coot have been observed on or after October 9, 2500 Canvas-backs seen M. W. R. on 11/16 but were very scarce in winter.

Hawks — Owls:

Wintering records include Sparrow Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed and the Rough-legged Hawk. The latter species is somewhat scarce in the Romulus-Seneca Ordnance Depot area, but present in appreciable numbers between Syracuse and south shore of Oneida Lake. Mr. Farnham (O. A. S.) reported 22 in 3 days of observation at 9 different places in the Syracuse area (7 seen in view at one time on Jan. 4, and 6 at Cicero Swamp on Jan. 17).

Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks seen on several dates in January (O. A. S.) Seven Short-eared Owls reported along south shore of Oneida Lake Dec. 28 by Scheider, Burtt, Evans, Spofford. The **Onondaga Audubon Society** also reports the following: 1 Killdeer 12/28; 1 Woodcock in City of Syracuse 1/10; 1 Flicker at feeding station in mid-January (Evans) in Syracuse; Winter Wren 12/28/52; five northern Horned Lark and 25 Prairie horned Lark, 2 Cardinals, 2 Tree Sparrows on 12/28/52 (Gambrells, Hartzell, K. Brownell).

F. L. Gambrell
288 Lafayette Avenue
Geneva, New York



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MAY 23-24, 1953

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ROGER TORY PETERSON is author of the bird watcher's bible — "A Field Guide to the Birds" — which is still a best seller after fifteen years. His paintings and photographs of birds have been widely published, and he is credited with having roused much of the current popular interest in bird watching. Peterson is a coast-to-coast lecturer for the National Audubon Society.

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